



Designation: C828 – 11

Standard Test Method for Low-Pressure Air Test of Vitrified Clay Pipe Lines¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C828; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reappraisal. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method defines procedures for testing vitrified clay pipe lines, using low-pressure air, to demonstrate the integrity of the installed line. Refer to Practice C12.

1.2 This test method shall be performed on lines after connection laterals, if any, have been plugged and braced adequately to withstand the test pressure, and after the trenches have been backfilled for a sufficient time to generate a significant portion of the ultimate trench load on the pipe line. The time between completion of the backfill operation and low-pressure air testing shall be determined by the approving authority.

1.3 This test method may also be used as a preliminary test, which enables the installer to demonstrate the condition of the line prior to backfill and further construction activities.

1.4 This test method is suitable for testing gravity-flow sewer pipe constructed of vitrified clay or combinations of clay and other pipe materials.

1.5 Terminology C896 is to be used for clarification of terminology in this test method.

1.6 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.7 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C04 on Vitrified Clay Pipe and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C04.20 on Methods of Test and Specifications.

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2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

C12 Practice for Installing Vitrified Clay Pipe Lines

C1091 Test Method for Hydrostatic Infiltration Testing of Vitrified Clay Pipe Lines

C896 Terminology Relating to Clay Products

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 The section of the line to be tested is plugged. Air, at low pressure, is introduced into the plugged line. The line passes the test if the rate of air loss, as measured by pressure drop, does not exceed a specified amount in a specified time. This may be determined by the use of Table 1, or calculated by use of the formulas in Appendix X1.

4. Hazards

4.1 The low-pressure air test may be dangerous to personnel if, through lack of understanding or carelessness, a line is over-pressurized or plugs are installed improperly. It is extremely important that the various plugs be installed so as to prevent the sudden expulsion of a poorly installed or partially inflated plug. As an example of the hazard, a force of 250 lbf (1110 N) is exerted on an 8-in. (205-mm) plug by an internal pressure of 5 psi (35 kPa). Observe the following safety precautions:

4.1.1 No one shall be allowed in the manholes during testing because of the hazards.

4.1.2 Install all plugs securely.

4.1.3 When lines are to be tested, it may be necessary that the plugs be braced as an added safety factor.

4.1.4 Do not over-pressurize the lines.

5. Preparation of the Line

5.1 Air may pass through the walls of dry pipe. A wetted interior pipe surface is desirable and will produce more

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.